



B R Y N M A W R U R B A N D I S T R I C T
C O U N C I L.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
(Dr. J. Tate)

A N D

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R
(E. Thomas Hall)

F O R

1 9 5 1.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Alma Street,
BRYNMAWR, Brecks.

June 1952.



BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman, 1951
Vice-Chairman, 1951
Chairman, 1951

Councillor J.R. Enoch, J.P.
Councillor W.C. White
Public Health, Housing & Highways:-
Councillor J.R. Enoch, J.P.

Members of the Council elected in May 1949.

North East Ward.

Councillor W. Nuth
Councillor M. Holley
Councillor J.R. Enoch

South Eastern Ward.

Councillor W.H. Sutherland
Councillor E.T. Williams
Councillor W.B. Williams

Central Ward.

Councillor G. Jones
Councillor E. Panton
Councillor E. Curtis

Western Ward.

Councillor W. Jones
Councillor W. Phipps
Councillor J.E. Jones
Councillor F.J. Sims

Southern Ward.

Councillor Mrs. C.M. Gardner
Councillor W.M. Jenkins,
Councillor J.R. Morgan
Councillor W.C. White

Public Health Officers of the Local
Authority

Medical Officer of Health
Southern Combined Districts
of Breconshire

Dr. J. Tate, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P.
D.P.H.
Appointed 1st March, 1950.

Sanitary Inspector
Inspector of Meat and other
Foods.

E.T. Hall, M.S.I.A. Cert S.I.B.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Brynmawr Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of its people and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1951.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the urban area is 6,434.

I wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their consideration and co-operation in all matters connected with the health of the district.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

J. TATE, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for the
Southern Combined Districts of
Breconshire.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN AREA.

Brynmawr is situated at the head of the Western and Eastern Valleys of Monmouthshire and on the main Merthyr - Abergavenny road, this road links up with the Midlands and West of England.

The workers are mainly employed in the coal-mines and steelworks of the adjoining industrial valleys.

Recently there has been considerable factory developement on the border of the town - a large modern factory has been erected for the Enfield Cable Company (known as the Brynmawr Rubber Company) and when working at full capacity will employ 1,600 persons. The major portion of this factory is outside the boundary of the urban district and employees are drawn from Brynmawr and the neighbouring areas.

In addition, a modern Boot and Shoe Making Factory and three Board of Trade Standard type factories have been erected and although situated outside the town's boundary, these factories employ considerable numbers of Brynmawr workers.

Within the area, there are two fairly large factories, one producing Tufted Chenille Products and the other, Ladies' Raincoats. There is also a smaller factory occupied by the East Wales Co-operative Boot Repairs, Ltd.

These industrial developments are a great boon to Brynmawr and the adjoining areas and predicts well for the future prosperity of the areas.

The housing problem is still a very serious matter; a large percentage of the existing houses are occupied by more than one family, there are a considerable number of sub-standard dwellings and many properties which should be considered for demolition action. The exposed position of the district and the heavy rainfall has the effect of making dampness a serious problem, particularly, as the older houses are of solid stone wall construction and not provided with damp⁵/₄proof courses.

/The majority of

The majority of these houses are let at rentals varying from five shillings to ten shillings weekly, large numbers are badly in need of extensive repair works and improvements but numbers of property owners cannot afford to carry out extensive re-conditioning which would involve many years of profit rental. However, owners are being prevailed upon to repair and improve their properties but such works are not being carried out expeditiously, due to shortages in building labour, financial difficulties and the fact that the local Contractors are inclined to give priority to larger contracts. The Sanitary Inspector is making every effort possible to secure essential repair works and some improvements to existing houses.

The Council is energetically pressing with plans for new housing accommodation but difficulties are being experienced in obtaining sites for future developement.

The total number of 'post-war' houses completed is 113, these include 50 Aluminium Prefabricated Bungalows. Under construction at the end of the year were 44 houses; of these, one is a combined house and shop premises, three are of the 3 bedroomed type dwelling, whilst the remaining forty are two bedroomed Gregory Maisonettes.

In addition, the Brynmawr Housing Society has erected 34 permanent type dwellings to house 'key-workers' employed at the Rubber Factory, of these dwellings 20 are three-bedroomed houses; 4 are two bedroomed flats and 10 are single bedroomed flats. It is of interest to record that this housing estate is served by a 'district heating scheme'.

In the selection of tenants for Council owned houses, the Housing Allocation Committee of this Council regard overcrowding and lack of separate accommodation as the most important factors to be considered.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1951, according to the Rate Book was 1,886.

The Rateable Value of the district is £22,146.

The Product of a Penny Rate for the Financial Year ending 31st., March, 1951, is £84.

Rates in the £.	General Rate	£ 1 . 8 . 6 .
	Water Rate	1 . 6 .
		<u>£ 1 .10 . 0 .</u>

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate.

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Total - 105.</u>	<u>Males 55.</u>	<u>Females 50.</u>
Legitimate -	Total - 103.	Males 54.	Females 49.
Illegitimate -	Total - 2.	Males 1.	Females 1.

Showing a Birth Rate per 1000 of the population of 16.0 as compared to 14.6 in 1950.

<u>Still Births:</u>	<u>Total - 4.</u>	<u>Males 3.</u>	<u>Females 1.</u>
Legitimate -	Total - 4.	Males 3.	Females 1.
Illegitimate -	Total - Nil.	Males -	Females -

Death Rate.

The number of deaths during the year was:-

Total 108. Males - 58. Females 50.

Being a Death Rate per 1000 of the population of 16.8 as compared to 13.6 in 1950.

Maternal Death Rate.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	.....	Nil.
Other Maternal Causes	.....	Nil.

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under one year:-

<u>Total 1.</u>	<u>Males - 1.</u>	<u>Females - Nil.</u>		
Legitimate -	Total 1.	Males 1.	Females	Nil.
Illegitimate -	Total Nil.	Males -	Females	-

Causes of Death.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic disease	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - lung bronchus	-	-
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	-

Causes of Death. (continued)

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	8
Coronary disease angina	5	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-
Other heart disease	14	9
Other circulatory disease	2	-
Influenza	6	2
Pneumonia	-	3
Bronchitis	9	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	-	1
Suicide	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
ALL CAUSES	58.	50.

SECTION B.

Laboratory Facilities:-	Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, Mon.
Ambulance Facilities:-	Monmouthshire & Breconshire County Councils.
Nursing in the home:-	Breconshire County Council.
Clinics and Treatment Centres:-	Monmouthshire & Breconshire County Councils.
Hospitals:-	Welsh Regional Hospital Board and North Monmouthshire Management Committee.

SECTION C.Prevalence and control over Infectious
and other Diseases.

The arrangements for Diphtheria Immunisation of children are carried out by the Public Health Department of the Breconshire County Council.

The incidence of infectious diseases during the year was low, there was no epidemic and the health of the general public is very good.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases,
other than Tuberculosis, notified during
the year.

Disease.	Total number of cases notified.	Males.	Females.
Scarlet Fever	4	1	3
Whooping Cough	33	21	12
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Measles	30	19	11
Pneumonia	23	10	13
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1
Chicken Pox	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Other notifiable diseases (except Tuberculosis)	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of cases on Register at Dec.1950.				Cases notified during 1951.				Deaths from Tuberculosis			
Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pulmonary	
42		4		6		2		1		1	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
24	18	4	-	1	5	-	2	-	1	-	1

Again expressing my appreciation to Members of the Council for their co-operation during the year.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

J. TATE, M.B.,B.Ch.,M.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the Southern
Combined Districts of Breconshire.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water from the Reservoir on the Llangattock Mountain, which is fed from the upland gathering grounds. When the need arises, this supply is augmented by pumping a supply of water into the Reservoir from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs at Clydach Valley, by means of a Blackstone Diesel Engine which pumps 12,000 gallons per hour. It became necessary to pump for a period of 6 weeks during the months of June and August of this year. The supply is, therefore, satisfactory in quantity even during 'dry periods'.

The water is chlorinated after sand filtration and is of satisfactory quality.

Control of the reservoir, pumping station, and mains concerned in the supply of water to the Urban District is in the hands of Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

The Sanitary Inspector takes periodical samples of the water and these are submitted for bacteriological examination.

Sampling.

During the year 1951, eighteen samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newport. Fourteen of these samples were from household supplies, two of untreated water from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs and two from springs serving cottages in isolated parts of the area.

The results of these samples are summarised below:-

Household supplies - direct from main supply.

<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory reports.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory reports</u>
14.	9.	5.

The five unsatisfactory samples were all contaminated with colliform bacilli of the non-faecal type and upon investigation it was found that the existing 'Paterson Chloros Type' plant was not operating in a satisfactory manner. This Chloro-pump depends upon an adequate pressure for its proper operation, this is not always available, particularly when the level of the water in the Storage Tanks is below normal. The consulting Water Engineers recommend the moving of the Chlorination Plant to a point lower down on the main, so that a more positive head of water can be obtained, resulting in a more positive operation of this Chloro-pump. This matter has been reported to Council and they are contemplating the installation of a new plant. The existing plant has been overhauled and now appears to be in fairly good order.

Samples taken from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs (untreated water)

Two samples taken from these Springs proved to be contaminated. This spring water is only used in time of drought when it is pumped to the reservoir for purification before it is turned into the town's mains.

Samples from surface Springs in isolated parts of the area.

Two samples were taken from Springs serving a few cottages not supplied by a main piped supply, both samples were found to be slightly contaminated.

It is not practical to serve these cottages from the Council mains, and every precaution possible is taken to protect these springs from contamination.

Tests for Plumbo-solvent action.

The water is of a 'soft' character and realising the possible plumbo-solvent action, special samples have in the past been submitted, specifically for plumbo-solvent tests.

The Public Analyst for the County of Monmouth reported:-

"As a result of the experiments made I am of opinion that the Brynmawr water as supplied to householders exerts an appreciable solvent action on a fresh surface of lead during the first 24 hours, this feature being common to many other supplies. The lead, however, becomes gradually covered with an insoluble coating and after four days the solvent action becomes so slight as to be inappreciable."

Samples also submitted to the County Health Laboratory at Newport were reported upon as follows:-

"These three samples of water all have a considerable action on a freshly polished surface of lead during the first 24 hours, the action decreasing on subsequent days and on the fourth day being of no significance, owing to the lead having become covered with a protective layer of insoluble material".

As a result of investigation and inspections in the district, it must be stated that few lead services are in use, the exception being the use of lead piping in hot-water systems and in those cases it is satisfactory to note that an insoluble coating is formed on such lead services.

Particulars regarding water services in the Urban Area.

Total number of dwelling houses (approx)	1,896.
Estimated population	6,434.
Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains.	1,841.
Estimated number of persons supplied	6,254.
Number of dwelling houses <u>not</u> supplied from mains	45.
Estimated number of persons <u>not</u> supplied	180.

In all dwellings supplied from the public water mains, the service is direct to the house - there are not any properties supplied by means of standpipes.

It will be noted that the percentage of dwelling houses in this area not served by public water services is 2.3%, while the percentage of estimated population not served from public mains is 2.8%.

The dwellings not supplied are properties widely separated in isolated parts of the urban area; and situated above the level of the reservoir. These houses and farms take supplies from mountain springs which are periodically inspected.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and nature of inspections made.

Number of complaints received	256.
Number of complaints investigated	256.
Number of visits re. cases of Infectious Disease	13.
Number of disinfections	1.
Number of inspections of dirty premises	8.
Number of disinfestations at verminous premises	4.
Number of inspections to properties under Notice	430.
Number of drainage inspections	123.
Number of drains tested	11.
Number of visits to movable dwellings	19.
Number of visits re. Rat & Mice infestations	104.
Number of visits re. refuse collection	28.
Number of visits to Piggeries	2.

The number of visits to food premises are dealt with under the appropriate headings, later in the report.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The whole town, with the exception of a few cottages situated in isolated parts of the district, is served by public sewers. The sewage is purified at a Sewage Disposal Works owned by the Authority and the effluent discharged into the River Clydach. Periodical samples of sewage effluent are submitted for examination as a check upon the methods of purification. Two such samples submitted during 1951 proved that the effluent had been satisfactorily purified.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The system of refuse disposal is by tipping, designed to level sites of dis-used workings of out-crop coal seams, which are numerous in this area.

From figures supplied by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor the estimated total weight of house and trade refuse disposed of during the year was approximately 3,500 tons.

One S/D Freighter being employed full-time and one other vehicle part-time upon refuse collection.

SWIMMING BATH.

The Council maintain a fairly large Swimming Bath, the water for which is purified by the Continuous Filtration Process and separate Chlorination Plant.

Frequent tests of the water are carried out using a Chloroscope to determine the residual free Chlorine present in the water and on all occasions the readings during the year were satisfactory.

Periodical inspections were carried out to ensure that the Baths were properly conducted and that no danger to public health existed.

HOUSING.

Dirty and/or verminous houses and eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year 8 visits were made to dirty or verminous premises and as a result of such visits a slight improvement was noted in the condition of these dwellings. However, these few problem families are a source of continual trouble to the Sanitary Inspector.

The report given below shows the action taken for the eradication of Bed Bugs.

<u>Council owned houses.</u>	Infested	-	Nil.
	Disinfested	-	Nil.
Other houses	Infested	-	4
	Disinfested	-	4.

All infested premises are visited by the Sanitary Inspector who decides on the method of disinfection to be adopted; this is usually fumigation followed by spraying with liquid insecticide.

In any case where re-infestation occurs, further treatments are carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The work of Rats and Mice destruction has proceeded satisfactorily and has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act.

Two maintenance treatments of the town's sewers have been completed and the results are summarised, as follows:-

Eleventh Maintenance Treatment.

Number of sewer manholes baited	....	128.
Number showing complete 'takes' of bait	....	6.
Number showing partial 'takes' of bait	....	48.
Number showing 'no take' of bait	....	74.

Twelfth Maintenance Treatment.

Number of sewer manholes baited	....	153.
Number showing complete 'takes' of bait	....	25.
Number showing partial 'takes' of bait	....	59.
Number showing 'no take' of bait	....	69.

The bait base was deposited on the 'benching' of the manholes or upon metal baiting trays fitted to the manhole wall. Each manhole being pre-baited upon alternate days and on the third day of treatment a proportionate amount of poison was added to the Base Bait and laid at all points which had resulted in a take of pre-bait.

The results of both treatments are satisfactory and it is my opinion that successful sewer treatments result in a lessening of infestation in surface premises - this being particularly noticable in this area.

In accordance with the instruction issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Department) the Base Bait and Poison used are alternated for sewer treatments and the results prove the efficiency of this change in bait and poison.

The work of Rodent Control in this area is carried out by a part-time Operator. This Operator is engaged in other miscellaneous duties, but those of Rodent Control are given priority

Sewage Disposal Works.

Treatments of the town's sewers were followed by treatments at the Sewage Disposal Plant and it was proved that this Plant was slightly infested, takes being recorded at only 16 points for the two treatments. These were successfully completed.

The presence of infestations at the Works does indicate the importance of carrying out treatments immediately after sewer treatments, so as to prevent possible re-infestation of sewers and drains in the town.

Refuse Tip.

Periodical inspections were made and test-baiting carried out at the refuse tip. I am pleased to report that no infestation was found.

Surface Infestations.

Every complaint of infestation by Rats or Mice was investigated and surveys of the town periodically carried out.

The undermentioned is a summary of the work completed at surface premises during the year:-

Total number of premises in area	2,017.
Number inspected	104.
Number infested by Rats	60.
Number infested by Mice	23.
Number of infested properties treated by Authority	83.
Number of Notices served requiring 'rat proofing'	1.
Number of "block" control schemes carried out	2.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following is a list of trades carried on at Factories within the urban area and a statement where mechanical power is used:-

	Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	Mechanical power not used.
Printing	1	1	-
Cellulose spraying	1	1	-
Boot and shoe repairing	2	2	-
Beer bottling	1	-	1
Mineral Water manufacture	1	1	-
Bakehouses	5	5	-
Tufted Chenile Products	1	1	-
Ladies Raincoats	1	1	-
Motor Vehicle repairs	5	4	1
Motor Body building and painting	2	2	-
Joinery	2	2	-
	<u>22.</u>	<u>20.</u>	<u>2.</u>

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.- Inspections for purposes as to health.

Premises	No. on Register.	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted.
		Inspections.	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced	1.	2.	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced	20.	42.	5.	-
(3) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced (excluding out-workers)	1.	1.	-	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects found.				Prosecutions instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- -ature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	5	-	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	3	-	2	-

PART 6 OF THE ACT. OUTWORK - sections 110 and 111.

There are no 'outworkers' in the urban area.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts. 137.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 430.
- (a) Number of dwellings (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1936. 66.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 66.
- Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation. Sec page 3
- (110 houses have been proposed for demolition action, when the housing position improves)
- Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and subsequently repaired as a result of informal action by Local Authority 129.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers 129.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in which Notices were served requiring repairs -
 - (2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-
 - By owners -
 - By Local Authority in default of owners -
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in which Formal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 34.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices.
 - By owners 27.
 - By Local Authority in default of owners -

Many difficulties were experienced in remedying defects in houses, delay being experienced due to shortage of building labour and the tendency for Contractors to give preference to larger building contracts.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 2. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 4. |
| Undertakings accepted that house will not be used for human habitation | 1. |

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit | - |
|---|---|

4. . . HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| (a) | 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | See page 3. |
| | 2. Number of families dwelling therein | " " " |
| | 3. Number of persons dwelling therein | " " " |
| (b) | Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year | " " " |
| (c) | 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 9. |
| | 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases | 46. |
| (d) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | - |
| (e) | Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to report | - The 'points' Allocation Scheme of this Council includes an award in respect of overcrowded families. |

The Council consider the problem of overcrowding of major importance and are proceeding as rapidly as is possible with the building programme.

The programme for this year is 44 houses under construction, of these one is a house and shop combined, three are of the three-bedroomed type dwelling and the remainder two-bedroomed type Gregory Maisonettes.

Due regard is given to overcrowded families when selecting tenants and much of the time of the Sanitary Inspector is taken up in the inspection of houses and investigation of applications for newly constructed houses.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION OF COUNCIL OWNED HOUSES.

Routine inspections have been carried out at the Council's Housing Estates during the year.

Verminous or dirty premises noted were dealt with immediately after inspection and the conditions subsequently reported to Council.

Unsatisfactory tenants are kept under close observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

Lists of necessary repairs noted were passed to the Surveyor's Department, for attention.

. FOOD.

Bye Laws under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Bye Laws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air, became operative in the urban area on the 15th., August, 1950. It has not been necessary to take legal action in any case and it has been noted that Food Traders are very co-operative in this question of food hygiene.

Clean Food Campaigns.

Due to shortage of staff, it has not been possible to organise any Clean Food Campaigns and it is doubtful if such campaigns would be justified in an area as small and compact as Brynmawr. The Sanitary Inspector is in constant contact with members of the food trade and during his visits to shops, restaurants and food preparing premises he has continually impressed food handlers with the absolute necessity for hygienic methods in all stages of food preparation and handling.

Inspections at Food Premises during the year.

Butchers' shops and slaughterhouse	92.
Retail food shops	93.
Market - stalls and vehicles	60.
Food preparing establishments	72.

There is only one large food factory in the area, namely, a Mineral Water Factory, occupied by Messrs. Saxon & Co., other food factories are small, being mainly bakeries and rooms used by Butchers for the preparation of 'made-up' foods.

There are no large hotel kitchens and only six small restaurants or snack bars.

Food Poisoning outbreaks.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of food poisoning notified during the year.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949.

The Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The duties regarding the control of milk production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture but the operation of the Regulations in so far as they relate to the distribution of milk remains the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Regulation 20 - Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

There was no evidence of any case of disease caused by milk during the year.

Inspections and sampling.

During the year 18 visits were made to dairies in the urban area, instructions and advice being given to Milk Distributors regarding precautions to be taken to prevent any contamination of supplies. I wish to state that the trade is most co-operative and it was not necessary to resort to legal action in any instance.

Milk Sampling.

There are 13 Milk Distributors registered by the Council, 10 retail Pasteurised Milks, whilst the remaining 3 Distributors retail undesignated milk.

Twenty-seven samples were submitted for examination during the year and the results are summarised, as follows:-

<u>Milk Sampled.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
23 samples of Pasteurised Milk.	22 Satisfactory reports. 1 Unsatisfactory report.
4 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.	2 Satisfactory reports. 2 Unsatisfactory reports.

Referring to the unsatisfactory reports, the matter was taken up with the Producers and copies of the reports forwarded to the Licencing Authority in which area the milks were produced.

LICENCED HOTELS AND INNS.

There are 24 Licenced Houses in the urban area and routine inspections have been carried out, particular attention being given to:-

- (1) The provision of separate sanitary accommodation for sexes.
- (2) Condition of beer cellars and stores.
- (3) Arrangements for the cleansing of glasses.

A great deal of improvement has been achieved in the provision of additional and improved sanitary accommodation and the provision of hot water facilities in the Bars.

However, still further improvements are desirable and the Brewery Companies, who own the majority of Inns in this area are anxious to improve their premises.

FOOD PREMISES.

During the year, 317 visits were made to ~~retail~~ food shops and premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale.

The undermentioned is a list of such premises in the area:-

<u>Type of food premises.</u>	<u>Number in area.</u>
Grocers	24.
Greengrocers & Wet Fish salesmen	9.
General stores	16.
Market - covered and open.	1.
Bakeries	5.
Mineral Water factory	1.
Restaurants (including Snack Bars)	6.
Butchers' shops	12.
Slaughterhouse	1.

Inspection of Foodstuffs.

During routine inspections at food premises the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered by the Retailers.

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Canned foods	719	cans
Bottled foods	21	packets
Dried Fruits.	30	lbs.
Canned Corned Beef or Mutton	303	lbs.
Imported Beef (condemned at the W.M.S.A. Depot)	320	lbs.
Cooked Ham	521	lbs.
Jellied Veal	148	lbs.
Bacon	28	lbs 12 ozs
Brawn	12	lbs.
Rabbit carcasses	1	carcase.
Savoury Ducks	144.	
Cheese	23	lbs.
Butter	6	lbs.
Cereals	11	packets.

In no case were any of these foodstuffs exposed for sale and those unsound foods capable of being used for any purpose, other than for human consumption, were so utilized.

The Ministry of Food have issued instructions regarding the salvaging of certain types of unsound foods.

ICE CREAM.

There are eleven Retailers and one Manufacturer of Ice Cream within the area. The Retailers obtain supplies from areas outside the urban district, the one manufacturer uses the Heat Treatment method, the apparatus used conforms to the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and all premises occupied by dealers conform to legal requirements and are registered in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In addition, there are a few Ice Cream vehicles coming into the area from adjoining districts and I am of the opinion that the need for an even more strict control over these street traders is necessary, as the possibility of contamination is greater than in the case of retail sales from registered premises within the district.

INSPECTION OF MEAT SUPPLIES.

The Government Controlled Slaughterhouse at Brynmawr supplies meat to five Local Authority areas, viz:- the urban districts of Brynmawr; Blaenavon; Nantyglo & Blaina; Abertillery, and Abercarn.

These Authorities have set up a Joint Committee, their function being to make an appointment and control the qualified Sanitary Inspector, whose duty is solely that of meat inspection at the Slaughterhouse.

The table given below is a report upon the number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Brynmawr Slaughterhouse during 1951 and details of the quantities of meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption

	Cattle ex. Cows.	Cows, only.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number of animals slaughtered	2,646.	866.	911.	16,689.	749.
Number inspected	2,646.	866.	911.	16,689.	749.

ALL DISEASES, EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	4	28	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	741	494.	-	815	20
Percentage of number inspected affected by disease, other than Tuberculosis	28.0	57.2	0.4	5.1	3.2

TUBERCULOSIS, ONLY.

Whole carcasses condemned	7	12	2	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned as a result of Tuberculosis	173	212	1	-	25
Percentage of number inspected affected by Tuberculosis	6.8	25.9	0.3	-	3.7

Detailed Monthly Statement
upon Meat Inspection work.

Animals slaughtered at the Brynmawr Slaughterhouse, - 1951.

Month.	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows, only.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
January	84	68	73	1,086	16
February	69	47	9	674	62
March	62	43	3	497	175
April	157	46	32	885	197
May	74	48	95	777	162
June	66	27	62	1,348	104
July	149	74	28	1,173	6
August	320	134	35	2,104	-
September	516	114	166	2,192	2
October	522	99	191	2,284	5
November	421	118	142	2,562	6
December	206	48	75	1,107	14
TOTALS.	2,646.	866.	911.	16,689.	749.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as result of diseases and other conditions, excluding Tuberculosis:- 24 tons 4 cwts 3 qrs 19 lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular infection:- 11 tons 14 cwts 1 qr 27 lbs.

Total weight condemned:- 25 tons 19 cwts 1 qr 18 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of Slaughtermen on the Register at 31st., December, 1951, was 24 but only 10 of these persons are employed as Slaughtermen.

CONCLUSION.

I gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the efficient help and co-operation received from the staff of other departments, and I am indebted to the Chairman and Members of Council for the support and consideration extended during the year of this report. I am confident that the same support will, at all times be given to the Public Health Department.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Members,
Yours obediently,

E. Thomas Hall, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.